UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Bureau of Commercial Fisheries Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife Guinan or Most - 343-5634

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NEWS NOTES FROM THE FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Alaskan King Crab Production Soars

Juneau, Alaska: The Department of the Interior's Bureau of Commercial Fisheries says preliminary reports show fishermen took a record 86.7 million pounds of king crabs in 1964--nearly 8 million pounds more than in the previous year.

Alaska's pack of canned crab meat was less than in 1963 because of damage to canning facilities in the "Good Friday Earthquake," but large quantities of frozen king crab meat and crab legs were sent to markets across the country. The product has enjoyed a tremendous increase in popularity in recent years.

Imperial Goldfish Held in National Aquarium

Washington, D. C.: Twenty exceptionally fine specimens of goldfish, gifts from the Emperor of Japan to the New York World's Fair, are being held at the National Aquarium in Washington, D. C., until tanks can be readied for them at the National Zoological Park in Washington.

The collection, consisting of calicos, fantails, and lionheads, were exhibited several months at the World's Fair before being shipped to Washington for permanent display.

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Shrimp is Most Valuable Item Taken by American Fishermen

Washington, D. C.: The Department of the Interior's Bureau of Commercial Fisheries reports that shrimp was the most valuable resource from the sea taken by domestic fishermen in 1964. Preliminary statistics show that last year's shrimp catch brought \$70 million and accounted for 17.9 percent of the total paid for all species caught by United States fishermen. Receipts for shrimp were 20 percent more than for the second most valuable item, Pacific salmon.

Record Prices Paid at Auction of Fur Seal Skins

Greenville, S. C.: Buyers at an auction of United States sealskins held here in April paid an average of \$101.24 each for the highest quality processed skins. This compares with an average of \$77.81 at last year's auction.

Processed skins from male fur seals average \$116.36, while female skins brought an average of \$89.21 each.

The Department of the Interior's Bureau of Commercial Fisheries is responsible for managing the world's largest fur seal herd which returns annually to rookeries on the Pribilof Islands in the Bering Sea, off the coast of Alaska. The seals are protected under a treaty among the United States, Russia, Japan, and Canada.

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Asian Goose Seen on Refuge in Kansas

Stafford, Kans.: A lone red-breasted goose, a type of waterfowl that normally nests in Siberia and winters near the Caspian Sea in Asia, was seen twice during the past winter on the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge in Kansas, the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife reports.

Known to biologists as Branta ruficollis, the red-breasted is a small goose that normally weighs from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 pounds.

The bird at Quivira could be an escapee from a captive flock or it might have crossed the Bering Sea into Alaska to migrate down the North American Continent, the Department of the Interior agency said.

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New Treatise on the American Oyster Available

Washington, D. C.: Dr. Paul S. Galtsoff, who devoted some 40 years to shellfish research as a scientist with the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, is the author of a treatise which may well become the new standard reference on American oysters (<u>Crassostrea virginica</u>).

The 480-page work, which includes a bibliography and a complete index, is available in a paperback edition for \$2.75 from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. 20402.

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